

New Address; Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701:::30/473-8186

December 28, 1967.

Mr. Julius Frandsen, V.P.  
United Press International  
315 National Press Bldg.,  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Frandsen,

Thanks for the copy of the 11/19 piece with your letter of 12/21.

I think it is hardly an answer to say that because Mr. Smith has stopped defaming me via UPI radio and UPI radio has from the first simply ignored my request for opportunity of fair response, that nothing happened, no damage was done and I should forget about the whole thing.

Such things as he did are damaging. He could have intended nothing else. UPI radio made it possible. UPI knew before airing this it was false, for I had written you prior to pub date of his "commemoration" piece.

That UPI and Mr. Smith did this after he declined my challenge to a confrontation on fact and after notification of the factual error of the entire basis of his libel make the offense, I think, more grievous.

For several years now I have watched the behavior of the press at a time when our society most needed it to perform its traditional responsibilities in the traditional manner. Instead, the press has defaulted, and on the issue in which - now have greatest personal interest, has become, in effect, an agency of government. Mr. Smith personally, and through him, perhaps inadvertently, because of its trust in him, UPI, have been major offenders.

To say that this has stopped does not relieve what has been done. I would hope that you personally and UPI as an independent agency would apply your own fairness doctrine (particularly right now, when the news is appropriate and largely comes from my own work) to the end that to the degree possible this unfairness and damage is relieved.

If anything is required to dramatize to you the monolithic attitude of the press on this subject, I cite the failure of your clients to use what they had for no extra cost, what had hard news in it, what was pertinent and appropriate. It had the defect of telling the truth, saying that the press has been unwilling to acknowledge.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg